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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the sentencing today of John Burton Wade, a 19-year-old former student of Mills Godwin High School in Henrico County, Virginia, for conspiring to destroy vehicles by fire. The Honorable United States District Judge James R. Spencer ordered Wade to serve 37 months of incarceration, followed by three years of supervised release. In addition, Wade was held jointly and severally liable for restitution totaling \$204,021.86 to over a dozen victims. Wade pled guilty in January 2004.

Wade's conviction resulted from a multi-jurisdiction investigation led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and investigators from Henrico and Goochland Counties into a string of property destruction offenses occurring during the Summer and Fall of 2002 that were committed by Wade, along with his co-conspirators, Aaron Linas and Adam Blackwell. The three defendants left notes at the scene of several of their attacks claiming responsibility in the name of "ELF," the Earth Liberation Front, which is a fringe eco-terrorism movement. Wade and his co-conspirators attacked property on at least 10 separate occasions from July through October 2002, which included an unsuccessful attempt on September 21, 2002, to blow-up construction vehicles at the Short Pump Town Center construction site. Though Wade did not directly participate in the September 21st incident, he and Blackwell had made a similar attempt directed at the same site several weeks earlier. On September 28, 2002, Wade and Linas used glass etching creme to deface several fast food restaurants and numerous SUVs, including 25 such vehicles at the Henrico-based Universal Ford dealership.

Wade, who was 17-years-old at the time he committed the offense, agreed to be prosecuted as an adult as part of his plea agreement with the United States. Linas was sentenced on April 12 to a term of imprisonment of 42 months for his role in the offenses.

Mr. McNulty stated, "The actions of this defendant were not impulsive, but were sustained and premeditated, threatened human life and destroyed property. This sentences will send a strong message of deterrence to others."

Also announcing the sentencing is Donald Thompson, Special Agent-In-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Resident Office.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brian R. Hood and investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.